

from that bird and also from *M. formicivora*, as it is black instead of brown in general colour.

144. *CRATEROPUS BUXTONI*.

Crateropus buxtoni, Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 445.

No. 167. ♂. Ngoboto, Jan. 11, 1890.—Irides bright yellow; legs olive.

No. 207. ♂. Turquel, Suk district, Jan. 27, 1890.—Irides bright yellow; legs olive-brown. Plentiful in small flocks.

The typical specimen of this species I took to Berlin, and carefully compared, in company with Dr. Reichenow, with specimens of *C. plebeius* of Rüppell. It differs from that species in the dusky centres to the dorsal plumage and also in its whitish throat, the feathers of the lower throat having distinct mesial tips of white.

145. *CRATEROPUS HYPOLEUCUS*.

Crateropus hypoleucus, Cab.; Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 75 (Usegua; Masai Steppes).

No. 73. ♀. Makarungu, Feb. 10, 1889.

(To be continued.)

XII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Allen on Maximilian's Types*.

[Further Notes on Maximilian Types of South-American Birds. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. iii. p. 199.]

Mr. Allen gives us further useful notes on Prince Max. of Neu-Wied's bird-types now in the American Museum of Natural History. He proposes a new generic name, *Rhopocichla*, for *Myiothera ardesiaca*, Wied, but this term has been already employed by Oates (Faun. Brit. Ind. Birds, i. p. 159). Mr. Allen has discovered the mislaid types of *Anthus pæcipterus*, Wied, and moreover agrees that the so-called *Anthus* is (as has long ago been pointed out*) not even an Oscinine bird, but a peculiar form of Dendrocolaptinæ.

* Selater, P. Z. S. 1866, p. 205.

2. Allen on the Birds of Matto Grosso.

[On a Collection of Birds from Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil, made by Mr. Herbert H. Smith. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. iii. no. 3.]

We are much pleased to receive the first instalment of Mr. Allen's account of the great Matto Grosso collection of birds. This series, which was accumulated by the well-known American collector Mr. H. H. Smith during the years 1882-86, originally numbered about 6000 specimens, of which 4000 were purchased by the American Museum of Natural History in 1887. About 1500 others, left in storage in the Museum, have likewise been used in preparing the present memoir. The remainder were acquired by Messrs. Godman and Salvin, and are now in the British Museum. But failing these last-named, Mr. Allen had before him such a series (about 4500) from the same district of South America as had never been previously got together, and has consequently been able to arrive at excellent results on several disputed questions.

Chapada, where or near where most of this fine series was amassed, lies in the Campo district of Matto Grosso, on the Bolivian frontier, about 35 miles S.W. of Cuyaba, at an altitude of about 2500 feet. Some four months, however, were passed by Mr. H. H. Smith and his party at Corumbá, about 300 miles southwards in the flood-plain of the Paraguay river.

The whole series collected is stated to contain examples of about 350 species. In the present memoir we have an account of the Oscinine Passeres, of which 87 species are included in the list. Several papers have already been published by Mr. Allen and others based upon specimens in this collection; but we have now a general account of it, and consequently much valuable information as to the individual variations of different species.

A new Tanager of the genus *Calliste*, allied to *C. cayana* and *C. flava*, is designated *C. margarethæ*, in honour of Mrs. H. H. Smith. Of this bird 137 skins are stated to be in the collection, and nests and eggs were also obtained.

3. *Barnes on Nests and Eggs of Western India.*

[Nesting in Western India. By Lieut. H. E. Barnes, F.Z.S. Journ. Bombay N. H. Society, vol. iii. p. 205; iv. pp. 2, 83, 237; v. pp. 1, 97, 315; vi. pp. 1, 129.]

Mr. Barnes writes a series of excellent notes on the breeding-birds of Western India, and describes their nests and eggs. Eight well-executed plates contain figures of the nests and eggs of the following species:—

Eggs of *Elanus ceruleus*, *Spilornis melanotis*, *Hirundo filifera*, *Ptyonoprogne concolor*, *Caprimulgus atripennis*, *C. maharattensis*, *Hirundo fluvicola*, *Caprimulgus indicus*, *C. asiaticus*, *C. monticola*, *Eudynamis honorata*, *Turnix taigoor*, *T. dussumieri*, *T. joudera*, *Cursorius coromandelicus*, *Houbara macqueeni*, *Glareola lactea*, *Ægialitis minuta*, *Rhynchæa bengalensis*, *Parra indica*, *Porphyrio poliocephalus*, *Erythra phænicura*, *Himantopus candidus*, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, *Gallinæ cinereus*, *Porzana akool*, *Hypotaenidia striata*.

Nests and eggs of *Hypothymis azurea*, *Icus luteolus*, *Orthotomus sutorius*, *Zosterops palpebrosa*, *Dicaeum erythrorhynchum*.

4. *Buckley and Harvie-Brown's 'Vertebrate Fauna of the Orkney Islands.'*

[A Vertebrate Fauna of the Orkney Islands. By T. E. Buckley, B.A., F.Z.S., and J. A. Harvie-Brown, F.R.S.E., F.Z.S. 8vo. Pp. 314. Edinburgh: 1891.]

Messrs. Buckley and Brown have now completed their "trilogy" by adding a volume on the Vertebrates of the Orkneys to that on the Vertebrates of Sutherland published in 1887, and that on the Orkney Islands issued in 1888. The plan of the present volume follows that of the preceding ones; it is got up in the same elegant way, and splendidly adorned with lithographs and other illustrations. Amongst them special attention should be drawn to Mr. J. G. Millais's beautiful sketches of Hoy Cliff's, Risa Little, and Stenness, which are worthy of all praise. The preliminary description of the Islands and their physical characters seems to be very

complete, and a clearly drawn map is appended to the volume.

The following passage with reference to the Eider Duck shows that in some districts at least well-arranged efforts to preserve some of our more interesting birds may be rewarded by success. Mr. E. S. Cameron, of Bugar House, writing to the author concerning this bird, says:—

“With regard to Eynhallow, the following facts speak for themselves. Previous to my purchase of the island in 1884, I never saw more than two or three broods of young Eiders about its shores, the first eggs laid there being invariably taken by fishermen and others.

“In 1884 I set to work to preserve the island strictly, and engaged a man, James Wood, to reside there during the nesting-season. In 1887 there were 200 Eider Ducks’ nests on Eynhallow, and the number of broods hatched out was 190.”

5. *Dubois on the Classification of Birds.*

[Revue des Derniers Systèmes Ornithologiques et Nouvelle Classification proposée pour les Oiseaux. Par le Dr. Alphonse Dubois. Mém. Soc. Zool. France, iv. p. 96.]

Dr. Dubois adheres rather to the old school, and objects to basing the classification of birds mainly on anatomical characters. After reviewing the systems of Huxley, Sundevall, Selater, and Fürbringer, he promulgates his own, in which Birds are divided into two Subclasses (after Sundevall), *Gymnopædes* and *Ptilopædes*, and these Subclasses into 14 Orders—*Psittaci*, *Passeres*, *Macrochires*, *Anisodaetylæ*, *Zygo-daetylæ*, *Columbæ*, *Heteroelitæ*, *Gallinæ*, *Accipitres*, *Herodiones*, *Grallatores*, *Palamedeæ*, *Natatores*, and *Struthiones*. In the *Natatores* Dr. Dubois places the *Anseres*, *Steganopodes*, *Gaviæ*, *Tubinares*, *Pygopodes*, and *Impennes*!

6. *Fürbringer on recent Progress in Avian Anatomy.*

[II. Internationaler Ornithologischer Congress. 3 Section. Anatomie der Vögel. Referat von Max Fürbringer.]

In a large quarto pamphlet of 48 pages, Dr. Fürbringer

gives a very useful summary of additions to our knowledge of avian anatomy and physiology during the last three or four years. A bibliography of 11 pages, which does not include "papers dealing with the integument, flight, food, and eggs of birds," concludes the summary, and is an indication of the continued activity of workers in this branch of zoology. The substance of the paper is simply an expansion of the bibliography, giving a necessarily very brief account of the various organs and systems that have been the subject of anatomical investigation during the period referred to, prefaced by a summary of the general progress of ornithology from the time of Aristotle. It concludes with an exposition of the several schemes of classification that have been propounded from the year 1887 onwards.

7. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts XCII.-XCV. 4to. London: 1891. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

The four numbers of this important work issued since our last notice of it (*Ibis*, 1891, p. 449) contain the remaining portion of the Cotingidæ and Dendrocolaptidæ. Of the latter family 46 species are known to the authors to occur in Central America. A new arrangement of the subfamilies of the Dendrocolaptidæ is proposed, based mainly on the form of the nostrils, according to which the Central-American members of the group would be arranged in six subfamilies—Synallaxinæ, Philydorinæ, Sclerurinæ, Margarornithinæ, Glyphorhynchinæ, and Dendrocolaptinæ. This arrangement will, no doubt, be an improvement, if the South-American members of the group are found to fall in with it. *Pseudocolaptes*, according to this view, is a Synallaxine genus. *Automoli verapacis* from Vera Paz, *umbrinus* from the Pacific coast of Guatemala, *guerrerensis* from Guerrero, Mexico, and *fumosus* from Panama are described as new.

The following species are figured:—*Sclerurus guatema-*

lensis, *Synallaxis pudica*, *S. erythrops*, *S. rufigenis*, *Philydor fuscipennis*, *P. rufobrunneus*, *Margarornis rubiginosus*, *M. brunnescens*, *Dendroornis lacrymosa*, and *Xiphorhynchus pusillus*.

8. *Hagerup on the Birds of Greenland.*

[The Birds of Greenland. By Andreas T. Hagerup. Translated from the Danish by Frimann B. Arngrimson. Edited by Montague Chamberlain. 8vo. Boston: 1871.]

Mr. Arngrimson has translated from the Danish, and Mr. M. Chamberlain has edited, Mr. Hagerup's notes on the birds of Greenland, the results of the last-named gentleman's observations during thirty months' residence at Ivigtut, a mining-town in South Greenland (lat. $61^{\circ} 15'$), about ten miles distant from the open sea. A previous article on the same subject was published in the sixth volume of 'The Auk,' but subsequent experience has enabled the author to make considerable additions to it.

To Mr. Hagerup's notes is appended a new Catalogue of the birds of Greenland, based on the works of Holböll, Reinhardt, Newton, Kumlien, and others, which comprises "all the birds discovered up to date" in Western Greenland, south of 73° N. lat. This tract is divided at 68° N. lat. into North Greenland and South Greenland.

Of the 139 species in the list, which is arranged according to the code of the A. O. U., one is extinct and 53 are accidental stragglers, while 24 others are of rare occurrence. The regular bird-inhabitants of Greenland are therefore 61 in number, inclusive of several which are "quite uncommon."

We venture to point out that in these days all geographical publications on zoology should be accompanied by maps. An outline map of Greenland would have rendered this little memoir still more acceptable.

9. *Hartert on Birds from Western Java.*

[Ueber eine kleine Vogelsammlung aus der Provinz Preanger in West-Java. Von Ernst Hartert. Ornis, vii. (1891) p. 113.]

Herr Hartert has studied a small collection made by

Dr. O. Warburg, of Hamburg, in the province of Preanger, in Western Java. He gives us a list of 93 species represented in it and many good critical notes.

10. *Hartert on Birds from Mindoro, Philippines.*

[Die bisher bekannten Vögel von Mindoro, nebst Bemerkungen über einige Vögel von anderen Inseln der Philippinen-Gruppe. Von Ernst Hartert. J. f. O. 1891 (April and July).]

Herr B. Schmacker, of Shanghai, visited Mindoro to collect shells in the winter of 1888-89, and made also a collection of bird-skins. Some of his duplicates were sent to the Senckenbergian Museum, and have been inserted in Herr Hartert's Catalogue of the birds of that institution (see *Ibis*, 1891, p. 615). On returning to Europe Herr Schmacker brought his collection home and gave it to Herr Hartert for determination.

Our author has added to his list of Mindoro birds the species attributed to this island by other authorities, and especially by Dr. Steere (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1891, p. 301), who has described most of the new species. Besides this he gives us many good critical notes and a prefatory sketch of what is known of the birds of the Philippines*.

Herr Hartert's list contains 64 species, but there are certainly many more than that to be found in this well-wooded island.

11. *Hornaday's Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting.*

[Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting, a complete Handbook for the Amateur Taxidermist, Collector, Osteologist, Museum-BUILDER, Sportsman, and Traveller. By William T. Hornaday. With Chapters on Collecting and Preserving Insects, by W. J. Holland, Ph.D., D.D. Illustrated by Charles Bradford Hudson and other artists. 24 Plates and 85 Text Illustrations. Pp. 362. 8vo. London: 1891.]

Mr. Hornaday is well known as an energetic collector and taxidermist, who has had great opportunities of practising

* In this sketch Herr Hartert seems to have omitted mention of Dr. Steere's *first* expedition (1874-75) and the memoir on the birds by Dr. Sharpe (*Trans. Linn. Soc. ser. 2, i. p. 307.*)

his arts, both in the field and in the laboratory. The sight of a fine animal, "alive or dead, excites in him feelings of admiration which often amount to genuine affection," and the "study and preservation of such forms has been for sixteen years his chief delight." There can be no doubt, therefore, that his book will be found most useful to all engaged either in collecting zoological specimens or in keeping them.

Two special chapters are devoted to instructions as to the collecting of birds, small and great, and four others to mounting them as specimens for exhibition. We have, besides, chapters on making skeletons and on collecting birds' nests and eggs. In the latter we are pleased to see the necessity of "positive and unmistakable identification" duly insisted on.

12. *Leverkühn on Pallas's Sand-Grouse.*

[Litterarisches über das Steppenhuhn, III. (Schluss=) Revue, nebst Original-Mittheilungen über die 1888er Invasion. Von Paul Leverkühn. Monatsb. Deutsch. Ver. z. Schutze Vogelw. xvi. pp. 110, 143.]

This is the final instalment of Herr Leverkühn's lucubrations on Pallas's Sand-Grouse (*cf.* Ibis, 1890, p. 116). It contains an additional list of authors and citations upon this interesting subject, and notices of recent papers and publications in reference to it. A good general article upon the great irruption of 1888 is still wanted to sum up the question, and we hope shortly to be able to supply it.

13. *Lucas on the Osteology of the Paridæ.*

[Notes on the Osteology of the Paridæ, *Sitta* and *Chamæa*. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiii. pp. 337-345.]

Mr. Lucas has studied the skeletal characters of various species of *Parus*, *Psaltriparus*, *Auriparus*, *Ægithalus*, *Chamæa*, and *Sitta*, and now gives us some account of the results arrived at. In the genus *Parus* the form of the anterior termination of the vomer is subject to great specific variation, as shown in Mr. Lucas's sketches. *Sitta*, as he points out, differs from *Parus* osteologically in many important parti-

culars. *Chamaea* is fully discussed. In its cranial characters it is "much like *Psaltiriparus*," while its shoulder-girdle and pelvic girdle are "decidedly Wren-like." The conclusion is that it should have an "intermediate position," as indicated in the name "Wren-Tit."

14. *Lucas on the Tongue of the Trochilidæ.*

[On the Structure of the Tongue in the Humming-bird. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xiv. p. 169 (1891).]

Mr. Lucas has examined the tongue in 13 species of Humming-birds, and gives us a general description of its structure, illustrated by enlarged figures. The differences in the various forms examined are small; and if "exceptions exist, they will most likely be found in the Phaethornithinæ." Mr. Lucas shows that the "tubular part of the tongue exists only for a short distance towards the anterior end, so that the common statement that the tongue of the Humming-bird consists of two parallel muscular tubes is quite erroneous."

15. *Meyer on a singular Variety of the Partridge.*

[Eine seltene Varietät des Rephuhnes, *Perdix cinerea*. Von A. B. Meyer. J. f. O. 1891, p. 271.]

Dr. Meyer describes a singular variety of the Common Partridge of a generally uniform dark greyish-brown colour, from a specimen shot near Gleichenberg by King Milan of Servia, and sent to the Dresden Museum. It seems to agree nearly with a dark variety of this bird described by Natterer in 1833.

16. *Olphe-Galliard on the Birds of the Environs of Lyons.*

[Catalogue des Oiseaux des Environs de Lyon. Par Léon Olphe-Galliard. 8vo. Lyon: 1891. Pp. 54.]

In 1855 M. Olphe-Galliard published in 'Naumannia' an article on the birds of the environs of Lyons. After an interval of 35 years he now reprints his notes, with additions and alterations. The present catalogue contains a record of

232 species. Much stress is laid, in the prefatory remarks, upon the serious decrease of bird-life in France of late years, which, however, looking to the passion for *gibier* which prevails so widely in that country, is hardly to be wondered at.

17. *Oustalet on the Birds of Patagonia.*

[Mission scientifique de Cap Horn 1882-1883. Tom. VI. Zoologie. Oiseaux, par E. Oustalet. 1 vol. 4to. Paris: 1891.]

This most useful volume on the birds of Southern Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, and the Falkland Islands is based primarily upon the rich collections made by Dr. Hyades, Dr. Hahn, and M. Savinet, of the French Government Mission to Cape Horn. At the same time M. Oustalet has studied the birds collected in Southern Patagonia by M. Lebrun and the officers of the 'Volage.' In order to render the work as complete as possible, however, the author has referred to all the previous authorities upon the same subject, and has thus vastly increased the value of his results. We have, in fact, in this volume a complete account of the present state of our knowledge of the ornithology of Antarctic America.

M. Oustalet first discusses the species of which specimens were actually obtained by the French voyageurs. These are 102 in number, mostly well-known species, concerning which, however, many new facts and observations are given. Two species of this series are considered as new discoveries—*Pseudochloris lebruni* and *Tinamotis ingoufi* (cf. Ibis, 1890, p. 453). A large Snipe is referred to *Gallinago nobilis*, ScL.; but the large species previously obtained in Tierra del Fuego is *G. stricklandi* (cf. ScL. et Salv. Ex. Orn. p. 196), not *G. nobilis*, which, so far as we know, is only found in Colombia and Ecuador. The vexed question of the Loggerhead Ducks is discussed at full length, and the decision is arrived at that there are two different species—*Micropterus cinereus* and *M. patachonicus*. Three examples of the very interesting small Penguin, *Microdyptes serresianus*, were obtained by the Cape-Horn Mission, and this species may consequently be added to the Neotropical Avifauna.

Having finished this portion of the subject, M. Oustalet proceeds to consider the species recorded by other authorities as occurring in Patagonia and Fuegia, but of which specimens were not obtained by the French expedition. These are 99 in number, and raise the total of the list of the known birds of Antarctic America to about 200. Tables showing the distribution of these species and remarks thereupon conclude the essay.

The following species are illustrated by well-executed plates :—*Tinamotis ingouji*, *Rallus rhytirhynchus*, *Larus scoresbii*, *Micropterus cinereus*, *M. patachonicus*, and *Phalacrocorax carunculatus*.

18. *Oustalet on two new Birds.*

[Description de deux espèces nouvelles d'Oiseaux, appartenant aux familles des Paradiseidae et des Trogonidae. Par E. Oustalet. Le Naturaliste, 1^{er} Nov^{re} 1891 (p. 260).]

The author describes a new Rifle-bird from a "native" Papuan skin without feet, which he proposes to call *Craspedophora mantoui*, and a new Trogon, from the interior of Venezuela, under the name *Trogon (Calurus) hargitti*, distinguished from all the previously-known species of this genus by its orange-yellow belly. Is not this the same as *Pharomacrus xanthogaster*, Turati & Salvadori, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 652?

19. *Ramsay's Catalogue of Birds in the Australian Museum.*

[Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum, at Sydney, N. S. W. Part III. Psittaci. By E. P. Ramsay, LL.D., F.R.S.E. 8vo. Sydney: 1891.]

The third section of Mr. Ramsay's 'Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum at Sydney' contains an account of the Parrots, of which the author recognizes 59 species and 6 "varieties" as now known to occur in Australia. These varieties it would be better to term "sub-species" in most cases. In all 750 specimens have been examined during the preparation of the Catalogue, those of the Adelaide and other museums having been brought into

comparison. *Platycercus mastersianus* is a rare species, recently described, of which two examples only are known.

20. *Ridgway's Directions for Collecting Birds.*

[Directions for Collecting Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Part A of the Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 39, 1891.]

Mr. Ridgway's directions for collecting birds are very plain and quite concise. At the same time they seem to embrace all the particulars concerning which information is required by the modern collector. We have great pleasure in recommending them as containing all the most recent details on a subject of permanent interest to ornithologists.

21. *Riker and Chapman on the Birds of Santarem.*

[A List of the Birds observed at Santarem, Brazil. By Clarence B. Riker. With Annotations by Frank M. Chapman. Auk, vols. vii.-viii. (1890-91).]

With the assistance of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Riker now furnishes us with a complete account of the collections which he made at Diamantina, near Santarem, on the Lower Amazons, during two visits in 1884 and 1887, the new species of which specimens were obtained having been previously described by Mr. Ridgway and Mr. Allen. In order to make the list as complete as possible, species are inserted of which examples have been obtained by other collectors in the same district, and the result gives us a total of 251 species known to occur at Santarem or in its immediate vicinity. Mr. Riker's preliminary notes on the district and field-notes on some of the species are of great interest, and we much hope that he may be able to return to Santarem and complete his good work, for we venture to say that by extending his area a little the list of species might be nearly doubled.

The authors have decided that the *Mimus* of the Lower Amazons is the true *M. saturninus* of Lichtenstein, and is distinct from that of S.E. Brazil, commonly referred to *M. saturninus*. They therefore propose to call the latter *Mimus arenaceus*. The Tyrant referred by Mr. Allen (Bull. Essex

Inst. viii. p. 79) to *Tyrannus niveigularis* is now ascertained to be *T. albogularis*, Burm. The greatest prize obtained by Mr. Riker was a single specimen of *Berlepschia rikeri*, a very curious form of *Dendrocolaptidæ* (cf. *Ibis*, 1889, p. 351, pl. xi.).

22. *Salvadori on Additions to Papuan Ornithology.*

[Aggiunte alla Ornitologia della Papuasias e delle Molucche. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Parte terza. Columbæ, Gallinæ, Grallatores, Anseres, Struthiones. 4to. Torino: 1891.]

We have now before us the third and last part of Count Salvadori's excellent and most useful enumeration of the species lately added to the Papuan avifauna. It contains the Columbæ, Gallinæ, Grallatores, Anseres, and Struthiones, and a long appendix, which brings the whole up to date. The avifauna of "Papuasia and the Moluccas" would thus appear to contain altogether 1198 species.

23. *Salvadori on Loria's Ornithological Collections.*

[Viaggio di Lamberto Loria nella Papuasias orientale. III. Collezioni Ornitologiche descritte da Tommaso Salvadori. Nota terza. Uccelli della Nuova Guinea meridionale orientale e delle isole d'Entrecasteaux. Ann. Mus. Civ. S. N. Genova, ser. 2, x. p. 797.]

Count Salvadori's third report on Dr. Loria's ornithological collections is now before us (cf. *Ibis*, 1891, p. 137), and gives us an account of 378 specimens, referred to 117 species, obtained in 1889 and 1890 in several localities on the S.E. coast of New Guinea and on some of the islands of the d'Entrecasteaux group. The New-Guinea birds belong to 104 species, amongst which are *Machærorhamphus alcinus*, *Tanyptera damæ*, *Munia grandis*, *Otidiphaps cervicalis*, and other rarities. Dr. Loria visited Woodlark, Ferguson, and Goodenough Islands of the d'Entrecasteaux group, and obtained 60 specimens, referable to 18 species. Among these were *Manucodia comrii*, *Phonygama thomsoni*, and *Paradisæa decora*—three fine species, which appear to be restricted to these islands.

24. *Schalow on the Birds of the Aleutian and Kurile Islands.*

[J. F. von Brandt: Ueber die Vogelfauna der Aleuten, Kurilen und der russisch-amerikanischen Colonien. Nach hinterlassenen Notizen herausgegeben von Herman Schalow. J. f. O. 1891, p. 235.]

Among the MSS. of the late distinguished naturalist, Dr. J. F. von Brandt, of St. Petersburg, has been found an unfinished memoir on the birds of the "Aleutian and Kurile Islands and Russian America," which was begun in 1849, and was intended to have been published in Russian and accompanied by illustrations. Herr Schalow now gives us portions of the introduction to this interesting work, together with the list of the birds and Brandt's notes written in Latin, to which in some cases he adds critical remarks. So much has been done by American and other writers on the ornithology of both sides of Behring's Sea during the past twenty years that there is little, if any, novelty in Brandt's observations, although some of the localities may have been hitherto unrecorded. As the Editor allows, it would have been very desirable in some cases to have been able to consult the specimens in the St. Petersburg Museum upon which Brandt based his remarks.

25. *Shufeldt on the Classification of the Columbæ.*

[Notes on the Classification of the Pigeons. By R. W. Shufeldt. Amer. Nat. 1891, p. 157.]

Dr. Shufeldt has recently examined skeletons of species of nearly all the genera of the American Pigeons, and has come to the conclusion that Coues's proposed division of the Columbidae into three subfamilies—Columbinæ, Zenaidinæ, and Sturnœnadinæ—cannot be maintained. From osteological characters two subfamilies only are recognizable—Columbinæ and Sturnœnadinæ, the latter containing only the genus *Sturnœnas*. We quite agree to this, and may moreover add that, unless we are much mistaken, Dr. Shufeldt will find on examination of the Old-World Columbæ that *Sturnœnas* has some near relatives amongst them.

26. *Stempelmann and Schulz on the Birds of Cordoba.*

[Enumeración de las Aves de la Provincia de Córdoba (República Argentina) por Hugo Stempelmann y Federico Schulz. Bol. Acad. Nat. Córdoba, x. p. 393.]

Mr. Schulz, assistant in the Museum of Zoology and Botany of the National University of Cordoba, has kindly sent us a separate copy of an article on the birds of the province of Cordoba, prepared by Prof. Stempelmann and himself. Mr. Schulz is already well known to ornithologists for good work in Argentina*, and we are glad to see that he is continuing it. The list contains the names of 250 species met with in the vicinity of Cordoba, and is intended as a prodromus of an 'Ornito-fauna Cordobesa,' which, it is announced, will shortly be published. Short indications are added as to whether each species is resident or migrant, and as to what kind of country it inhabits (mountains, plains, or forests). "*Demelioteucus*," as applied to *Molothrus badius*, is a generic term which we have not met with before, and several MS. names unknown to us are likewise used.

27. *Wilson and Evans on Hawaiian Birds.*

[Aves Hawaiianes: the Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S., assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. Part II. Sept. 1891†. 4to. London: 1891. R. H. Porter.]

We are glad to receive the second part of this valuable work, and may perhaps venture to express a hope that the succeeding numbers will appear at rather shorter intervals. The birds discussed and (*well*) figured in the present part are:—*Psittacirostra psittacea*, *Pheornis myiadestina*, *Ph. lanaiensis*, *Drepanis pacifica*, *Himatione sanguinea*, *Oreomyza bairdi*, *Chaetoptila angustipluma*, and *Buteo solitarius*. Two other Hawaiian species (*Circus hudsonius* and *Asio accipitrinus*) are discussed, but not figured. In this number we have also an excellent essay by Dr. Gadow on the structure of some of the Hawaiian birds of which specimens were brought home by Mr. Wilson in spirit. These specimens all belong to Osci-

* Cf. Arg. Orn., Appendix, p. 229.

† For notice of pt. I., see 'Ibis,' 1891, p. 291.

nine types. After examining them Dr. Gadow comes to the conclusion that *Loxioides* and *Psittacirostra* are Fringilline forms, and that *Acrulocercus* and *Chætoptila* belong to the Meliphagidæ, whilst the genera *Drepanis*, *Vestiaria*, *Himatione*, *Loxops*, *Chrysomitridops*, *Oreomyza*, and *Hemignathus* present common characters which enable them to be distinguished as constituting a peculiar Hawaiian family—Drepanididæ. This last-stated fact has been guessed at before, but now rests on solid grounds. Three plates are well devoted to the illustration of Dr. Gadow's anatomical researches.

It may perhaps be as well to point out that Lichtenstein's 'Verzeichniss' (referred to under *Psittacirostra psittacea*, p. 2) is a list of *duplicates*. It is consequently no argument that because species are not included in it they were therefore "presumably not in the Berlin Museum in 1823"—only that there were no duplicates of them in the Berlin Museum at that date.

XIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, and Obituary.*

THE following letters have been addressed to the Editor of 'The Ibis':—

Royal Zoological Museum, Dresden,
August 21st, 1891.

SIR,—It is only just now that I have discovered a misprint in my paper, "Field-Notes on the Birds of Celebes," in 'The Ibis' for 1879 (ser. 4, vol. iii. p. 130), which I am bound to correct, as it might mislead other naturalists. I there say, under the head of *Criniger aureus*, that I discovered this bird on the highest summit of the chief island of the Togian group, in the Gulf of Tomini, "about 6000 feet above the sea." It ought to be "about 1000 feet"! If such a high mountain existed on one of the islands of this group, it might induce some one to go there for a successful collection-trip. Now I will not say that it would not be well to go there for that purpose, but at any rate a mountain